

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**Community Health Improvement Planning Task Force - MINUTES**  
**St. Peter's Hospital, HELENA, MONTANA 59601**  
**December 11, 2012**

Guests Present

See Attached Attendance Sheet

Facilitators

Lindsey Krywaruchka, MT DPHHS

Denny Hayward, MT DPHHS

Staff Present

Melanie Reynolds

Jolene Helgersen

Gayle Shirley

Gayle Sheldon

After a brief introduction of all attendees, Facilitators Lindsey Krywaruchka and Denny Hayward outlined the goal of the Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP) Task Force meeting, which was to brainstorm the major health issues facing residents of Lewis and Clark County. Ms. Krywaruchka also outlined the work the task force will do in two additional anticipated meetings.

Facilitators began the discussion by posing the following questions and eliciting the following responses:

**What do you hope to get out of this process that will make participation worth your time?**

- Schools – develop and maintain healthy habits for children
- Employee health – what is happening?
- Parents without insurance, dental health
- A community culture of prevention, particularly injury prevention
- A community effort, community led
- Safety in streets, walkability, parks
- Comprehensive plan that takes in all pieces of the community
- People with mental illness able to integrate

**How do you think you can use the information that comes from this process?**

- St. Peter's will use it to determine topics for community events
- Senior citizen representatives will deal with problems we have for this part of community, push them to consider health, and fill service gaps that exist
- Improve opportunities to participate in educational programs on prevention, especially for low-income people
- DES will use it to help the special needs population; a healthier community is more resilient
- Families and adults with disabilities will be able to access medical services; the right docs will be available, including those who treat mental illness

- Physical access to care will improve (transportation)

Melanie Reynolds, Health Officer for the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department, gave a PowerPoint presentation on what the Community Health Improvement Planning process is about and what it means to the community. Melanie presented another PowerPoint presentation on “Assessing the Health of the Community,” in which she discussed what a community health assessment and how it informs the health improvement planning process. She briefly introduced the Community Health Report published by the health department in December 2011.

The task force briefly discussed other assessments being done in the community that might help inform the CHIP process. Comments included:

- St. Pete’s is in the midst of a community health assessment that involves a phone survey and focus groups
- AWARE conducts the CAN assessment
- Youth Connections conducts Youth Behavioral Risk Factors survey in schools
- Early Childhood Coalition just completed a needs assessment that shows there are more kids living in the Helena Valley than in the city
- Head Start has conducted an assessment that shows a need for more housing
- A task force of the City-County Board of Health produced a report on access to health care in Lewis and Clark County and made recommendations for improvement

Ms. Krywaruchka and Mr. Hayward asked the attendees to write down responses to this question:

**“What diseases, illnesses, and/or medical or behavioral conditions are substantial concerns and must be addressed to improve the health and quality of life in Lewis and Clark County?”**

The facilitators categorized the responses on a “sticky board.” See “Top Health Concerns” for a list of all of the topics the task force generated.

At the next Community Health Improvement Planning meeting, the task force will prioritize the health concerns with a goal of identifying 3-5 specific health issues it wants to address.

Additional comments from task force members during the meeting:

- Hard to track and identify mental health issues in youth; also hard to connect them to services
- Children with mental illness and behavioral, intellectual, and developmental disabilities are being placed out of state, which is not optimal
- Need to ask “why” regarding what data shows; need to focus on solutions that we have the ability, will, and resources to solve
- Has been an increase in children with allergies and type 2 diabetes

- Among youth, binge drinking and alcohol use is declining; tobacco, marijuana and prescription drug use is on the rise

The next CHIP meeting will be announced at a later date.

# **Community Health Improvement Planning**

**Meeting Attendees, Dec. 11, 2012**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Charles Aagenes     | Rocky Mountain Development Council                 |
| 2. M.C. Beeby          | Safe Routes to Schools                             |
| 3. Lora Behlmer        | Helena Citizens Council                            |
| 4. Monica Berner       | Blue Cross Blue Shield                             |
| 5. Verner Bertelsen    | Golden Nuggets                                     |
| 6. Rebecca Chance      | St. Peter's Hospital Behavioral Health Unit        |
| 7. Tammy Cloud         | Valley Bank-Helena                                 |
| 8. Karen Dobson        | Health Department, Immunizations                   |
| 9. Erin Drynan         | Career Training Institute                          |
| 10. Brian Garrity      | Local Mental Health Advisory Council               |
| 11. Richard Heimbigner | Golden Nuggets                                     |
| 12. Mike Henderson     | Health Department, Communicable Disease            |
| 13. Ellen Livers       | Shodair Hospital                                   |
| 14. Tim McCauley       | United Way   |
| 15. Joe McClure        | Montana Business Assistance Connection             |
| 16. Kate McIvor        | Cooperative Health Center                          |
| 17. Gary Mihelish      | NAMI-Helena  |
| 18. Billie Miller      | Citizen  |
| 19. Kathy Moore        | Health Department, Environmental Health            |
| 20. Suzanne Morgan     | AWARE  |
| 21. Drenda Niemann     | Youth Connections                                  |
| 22. Brie Oliver        | Health Department, Nurse Home Visiting             |
| 23. Jaymie Sheldahl    | Head Start   |
| 24. Dr. Robert Shepard | Retired family physician                           |
| 25. Barbara Sheridan   | Helena Area Transit System                         |
| 26. Howard Skjervem    | NorthWestern Energy                                |
| 27. David Smith        | Helena YMCA  |
| 28. Paul Spengler      | County Disaster & Emergency Services               |
| 29. Amy Tenney         | Boyd Andrew  |
| 30. Norma Tirrell      | Citizen  |
| 31. Jeanne Underhill   | Health Department, Home & Community-Based Services |
| 32. Ken Wallace        | City-County Board of Health                        |
| 33. Mignon Waterman    | Citizen  |
| 34. Anne Weber         | City-County Board of Health                        |
| 35. Robert Worthy      | School District 1 Food Services                    |